

Aggies drive past over-matched Southeastern La., 86-55

BY MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

Watching the Texas A&M Men's basketball Team run its offense is typically an exercise in predictability. But trotting down the court, methodically passing the ball around the perimeter and eventually setting for a mid-range jump shot

went out the window Saturday night, as the Aggies ran past Southeastern Louisiana for an 86-55 victory at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Due in part to the full-court press the Lions used for much of the contest, A&M was able to use its speed and athleticism to score easy baskets with increasing regularity. After the typical adjustment

period needed against a pressing defense, the Aggies had little trouble breaking the Lions' press and quickly setting up their offense.

"I thought it was a fun game for us," said freshman forward Shanne Jones, who led the Aggies with a career-high 21 points. "We knew they were going to press, and Coach (Tony Barone) told us we'd get some easy baskets."

Those easy baskets usually came as the result of a Lion miscue. A&M turned 24 of the Lions' turnovers into 20 points, and played the passing lanes with abandon, rarely allowing the Lions a good look at the basket.

The Aggies also scored 34 fast-break points, compared to just four for SLU. Substitutions were made early and often, and the players responded, as the Aggie reserves outscored their Lion counterparts 29-14. Backup center Brad Stricker saw extensive action, scoring 11 points on 5-for-6 shooting from the field.

"We think we have a good bench," Barone said. "We need them to go in and make something happen and we didn't have that the last game. We're more interested in (a player) making something happen than maintaining the status quo."

The Aggies maintained a double-digit lead for most of the first half and led 38-26 at halftime. As has recently been their habit, the Aggies hit the floor in the second half with fire in their shorts. The A&M transition game, steady in the first half, became downright spectacular in the second.

The Aggies' first basket of the half came on a breathtaking, highlight-reel dunk over a shocked Lion defender by guard Gerald Brown. It was the freshman's first collegiate dunk after two misses, and he did it in style.

Sophomore forward Calvin Davis was not to be outdone, however. On the Aggies' next possession, senior point guard Tracey Anderson lobbed a pass to Davis, who came off a backdoor screen and rammed the ball through the hoop for an alley-oop dunk that electrified the crowd of 3,119 and set the tone for the second half.

See **AGGIES**, Page 6

Lady Ags fall short in second-round NCAA match

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team's dreams of advancing to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament went up in smoke Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. The 15th-ranked Lady Aggies succumbed to 1995 Final Four participant Michigan State University in three hard-fought games, 19-17, 15-13, and 15-12.

After defeating Arkansas-Little Rock in the first round of the tournament Wednesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum, the Lady Aggies' season ended having made the field of 32 teams.

"It was a very even match, as the stats show," A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "It was one of our best performances all year, minus a couple breakdowns."

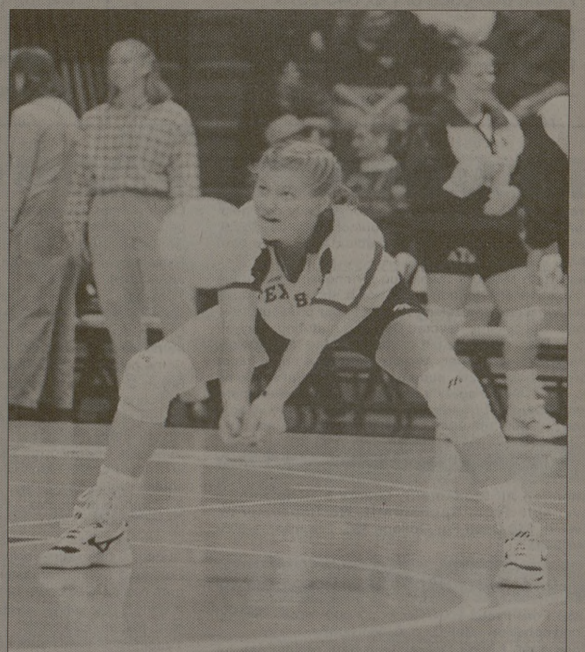
Junior outside hitter Kristie Smetsrud led the Lady Aggies (25-8) with 23 kills, while sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora recorded 15 kills and 24 digs. Senior middle blocker Page White concluded her collegiate career with 10 kills and 11 digs.

Michigan State (25-6) was paced by Jenna Wrobel's 25 kills.

While the A&M players were sad to see their successful season end, Corbelli said the team has a bright future.

"We preach our players to play with heart, and these girls work their tails off," Corbelli said. "That's why you see the tears here and in the locker room, because they work hard and it's disappointing to lose."

"The future's bright; we lose just one senior. I am



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Kristie Smetsrud digs a shot against Nebraska at G. Rollie White Nov. 30.

fortunate to coach players like these; they're very dedicated, and we'll progress from here."

JUCO recruit Rollerson ready to build on first year success

BY KRISTINA BUFFIN
THE BATTALION

Among a sea of youngsters on the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team, forward Melissa Rollerson emerges. This season, she is one of three seniors who are expected to help the Lady Aggies build on the success they experienced last season — a 20-win season and the Southwest Conference Tournament crown.

Rollerson transferred to A&M last season after two years at Trinity Valley Community College. While there, Rollerson led the team to a 66-3 record and two national championships.

Rollerson chose to attend junior college before moving on to Division I after speaking with her mother and high school coach.

"I was overwhelmed with Division I recruiters," Rollerson said. "After getting my test scores, I sat down with my coach and mother and decided to go to Trinity to get a feel for college."

The senior said she does not regret her decision,



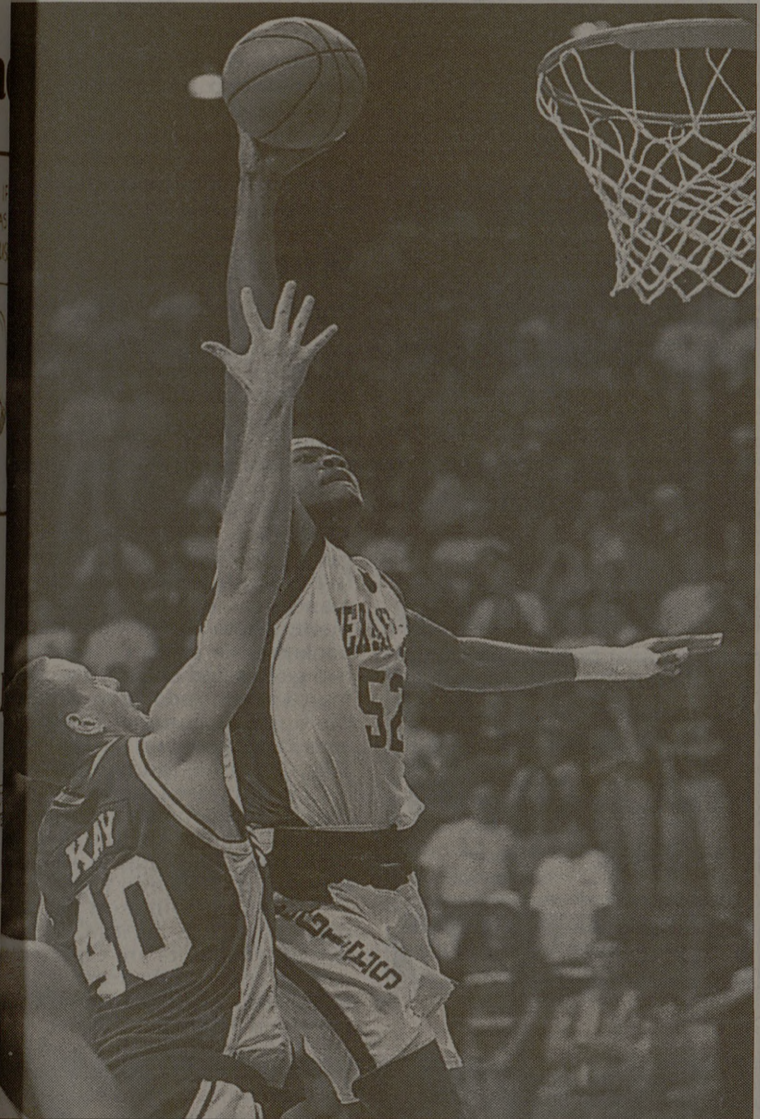
Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Senior forward **Melissa Rollerson** passes off during practice last week at G. Rollie White.

and playing at Trinity for two years enabled her to develop and improve as a player.

"It was very competitive," Rollerson said.

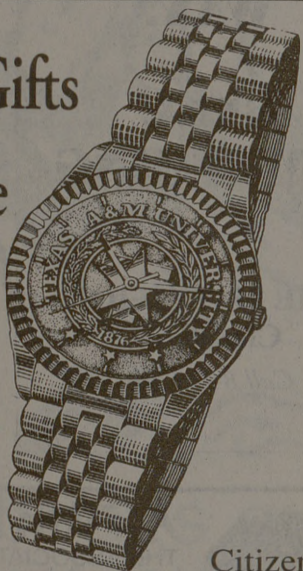
See **ROLLERSON**, Page 6



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Freshman guard **Jerald Brown** goes for a lay-up against Southeastern Louisiana at G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night.

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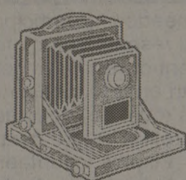
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